

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00178 201137Z

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05

IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W

-----201646Z 113090 /43

R 201050Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5769

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARAN REFUGEES: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

REF: (A) 76 ALGIERS 2585, (B) ALGIERS 155 NOTAL

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH TECHNICIANS DIF AND SEGURO, RELEASED IN OCTOBER, 1976 AFTER TEN MONTHS AS PRISONERS OF POLISARIO (76 ALGIERS 2585), MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE TO FRENCH EMBASSY HERE:

A. POLISARIO EXERCISES "VERITABLE TERROR" IN CAMPS.

B. MANY REFUGEES WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO SAHARA, BUT POLISARIO PREVENTS THEM FROM DOING SO. THOSE WHO TRY TO ESCAPE ARE KILLED.

C. NUMBER OF REFUGEES IS ROUGHLY 20,000. THERE ARE SOME 1,000 POLISARIO GUERRILLAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00178 201137Z

D. SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES COME FROM AREAS OTHER THAN SAHARA, SUCH AS MALI (ALGIERS 155 NOTAL).

E. AT ONE POINT DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY, DIF AND SEGURO FEARED THEY WOULD BE EXECUTED.

2. FOREGOING INFORMATION IS THIRD-HAND, AND WE NOT

IN POSITION TO SAY TO WHAT EXTENT ASSERTIONS BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION BY DIEF AND SEGURO OR ON ACCOUNTS GIVEN THEM BY OTHERS IN CAMP. DIEF AND SEGURO PRESENT PICTURE OF POLISARIO OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION WHICH IS CERTAINLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT GIVEN IN RECENT ACCOUNTS BY OBSERVERS SEEING SITUATION AS GUESTS RATHER THAN PRISONERS.

3. ON ONE HAND TEN MONTHS AS PRISONERS UNLIKELY TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE VIEW OF POLISARIO CAUSE. ON OTHER HAND FRENCH AMBASSADOR STATES HE IMPRESSED BY BALANCE AND LUCIDITY OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS AND BY THEIR REMAINING INURED TO POLISARIO BRAINWASHING TACTICS; DIEF AND SEGURO CERTAINLY HAVE LONGER AND CLOSER EXPOSURE TO POLISARIO REALITIES THAN OTHER OBSERVERS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, ESTIMATES NOW RANGE BETWEEN DIEF'S AND SEGURO'S 20,000 AND ALGERIAN PRESS FIGURE OF 105,000; THESE NUMBERS PROBABLY SET RANGE WITHIN WHICH ONE CAN ONLY GUESS. WE QUESTION WHETHER POLIARIO WITH ONLY 1,000 COMBATANTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUSTAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF OPERATIONS FOR AS LONG AS THEY HAVE, BUT WE NOT IN ANY POSITION TO PROVIDE DIFFERENT ESTIMATE. LYNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-1059
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770135/aaaabdwg.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11fa07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ALGIERS 2585, 77 ALGIERS 155
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3552696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARAN REFUGEES: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN
TAGS: PFOR, SS, (SEGURO, IERRE), (DIEF, JEAN-PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11fa07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009